GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:78
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2005
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT STATIONS AND IN TRAINS
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa;Chaure Shri Bapu Hari

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a): the details of security arrangements made at Railway Stations and in trains all over the country particularly in view of the suicidal terrorist attacks in the country;

(b) whether at most of Railway Stations and in trains particularly at railway stations in Delhi, there exist no adequate security arrangements;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to beef up the security;

(d) whether mock drills have been carried out at Railway Stations and in trains to find out the effectiveness of security arrangements there; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.78 BY SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE AND SHRI SURESH ANGADI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 28.07.2005 REGARDING SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT STATIONS AND IN TRAINS.

(a) to (c): No. Sir, According to Entry No.2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railways and village Police), is a State subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore, the statutory responsibility of the State Police. The State Police have a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Prevention and detection of crime is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments, and as such, Ministry of Railways has to depend largely on them for control of crime over Railways.

The Government Railway Police (under the State/Union Territory. Governments) co-ordinate the security arrangements as per the requirements and levels of security threats, their nature etc. The Railways actively assist in aspects pertaining to the Railways in order to facilitate smooth train operations and transportation of passengers, parcels and goods in such situations.

The trains leaving and passing through Delhi area stations are being escorted by the Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force, periodically reviewing the requirements and also maintaining the element of surprise. Basic security measures like safe guarding the rakes at the maintenance lines; keeping the rakes closed till they reach the platform etc. are taken. Graphic displays reminding the passengers to beware of unattended packages, suspicious movement of strangers etc are displayed in the trains and railway premises. Passengers are also regularly reminded through the Public Address system and the display Television system. Sensitive stations are provided adequate security cover by the State Government agencies and the additional Forces at their resource in co-ordination with the Railways.

However, to provide better security to the traveling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended to enable the Railways, through the RPF, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State/Union Territory Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The Railway Protection Force staff are being deployed to escort many trains and are also deployed in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Police. Officers authorised on the Railways have also been empowered to deal with the minor offences affecting the train operations such as Alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticket less travel, unauthorized entry etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) amending the Railways Act w.e.f. July 2004. The objective was to ensure that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more manpower and time to handle heinous offences such as Terrorist activities, Murder, Dacoity, Robbery, Rape etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws of the land.

During the period July 2004 to March 2005, Railways have prosecuted 5,48,411 persons under various sections of the Railways Act. An amount of Rs.8.78 Crore has been realized from them as fine. Railways have, thus commendably executed the new responsibilities with tremendous credit.

Railway Protection Force has been providing daily, an average of 1,128, escort parties in many of the important trains in co-ordination with the State Governments, for which an average of 3,443 staff are deployed. 577 stations on the average are also given additional security by RPF with deployment of 2,774 personnel daily. These deployments are in addition to the Government Railway Police personnel deployed on trains and the railway premises, in order to further strengthen the security.

From July 2004 upto March 2005, 90 cases of drugging, 151 cases of luggage lifting, 44 cases of illegal arms, 51 cases of gold chains/mangal sutras snatching, 222 cases of churas/ganja smuggling, 13 cases of pick-pocketing, 11 cases of offence against women and 253 cases of other (Indian Penal Code) offences have been detected by the Railway Protection Force and handed over to Government Railway Police (GRP). In addition, 790 (First Information Reports) were accepted from victim passengers and handed over to GRP for expeditious registration of offences and enquiry. Railway Protection Force have also rescued 130 minor girls and boys from Railway Stations and tra trains and handed them over to either parents or (Non-Governmental Organizations).

The offences of Dacoity, Robbery, Theft, Theft of passengers` belongings etc. in trains and railway premises have showed a reduction after amendment of the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 w.e.f. 1st July 2004. 50 cases of Dacoity, 198 cases of Robbery, and 5542 cases of Theft of Passengers` belongings were reported during the six months period of July to December 2004 against 82 cases of Dacoity, 201 cases of Robbery and 6066 cases of Theft of Passengers` belongings reported during the previous corresponding period from January to June 2004.

The Railway Protection Force has been equipped with additional road vehicles (48 Buses, 152 Jeeps and 119 Motor Cycles costing above Rs.9 Crores). Procurement of communication equipment (3142 number of 5 Watt Walkie Talkies and 123 number of 25 Watt VHF costing above RsA Crores) is under process. Besides compact & effective weapons like 5.56 mm INSAS rifles numbering 1000 (costing Rs. 2.95 crores), additional 500 number of 9 mm carbines (costing Rs. 67.58 Lakhs) have been procured during the year 2004-05.

To monitor proper security at Railway Stations and in the trains, co-ordination meetings/conferences between Government Railway Police (GRP) Chiefs and Railway Protection Force (RPF) Chiefs are held from time to time regularly at all levels i.e. Zonal Railways level as well as Boards level to discuss crime related matters and proper escorting of the passenger trains and security of passenger areas.

(d) & (e): Surprise checks are conducted from time to time by the Superiors and Officers of the Railway Protection Force to find out the effectiveness of Security anangements at stations and Trains.

Special care has been taken by the Railways to provide security to women passengers. Special squads in the form of Surakhsni, Tejaswani, Durgavahni and Bhairavi consisting of women Railway Protection Force Constables and women Ticket Examiners have been deployed in the affected areas of Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Patna sub-urban sections. Further, armed Government Railway Police personnel are also escorting ladies compartment in night hours over Mumbai sub-urban sections. Additional Railway Protection Force staff have been posted in affected sections to enhance security of women passengers.